

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A retrieval device in a system having computers and databases connected to one another, comprising:

a retrieval reservation registering ~~portion-unit~~for, said retrieval reservation registering unit registering retrieval requests issued by users;

a duplicate integrating ~~portion-unit~~for, said duplicate integrating unit combining duplicates requested in differing said retrieval requests in accordance with pre-stored rules to generate an integrated retrieval request to lessen a number of retrieval requests;

a retrieval device ~~portion-unit~~for, said retrieval device unit retrieving information from the databases on the basis of contents of said integrated retrieval request integrating said retrieval requests to obtain retrieval results; and

an output creating ~~portion-unit~~for, said output creating unit creating, on the basis of the retrieval requests issued by the users and said retrieval results, retrieval results data to be sent to said users when information is retrieved from said databases.

2. (currently amended) A retrieval device according to Claim 1, wherein in said retrieval reservation registering ~~portion-unit~~unit, duplicates are checked and

eliminated in said retrieval requests which exist at present and in the past so as to integrate retrieval conditions.

3. (currently amended) A retrieval device according to Claim 2, wherein said retrieval device ~~portion-unit~~ edits said retrieval results data in a predetermined format by user by checking duplicates of the retrieval requests issued by users respectively and sends said edited retrieval results data to said users respectively on the basis of retrieval conditions desired by said users, said retrieval results data being acquired on the basis of said integrated retrieval conditions.

4. (currently amended) A retrieval device according to Claim 3, wherein upon editing of said retrieval results by user, said retrieval device ~~portion-unit~~ eliminates duplicates from said retrieval results desired by each of said users and integrates said retrieval results by each of said users when there are said duplicates in contents of said retrieval results, so that said retrieval device ~~portion-unit~~ sends edited said retrieval results data to said user.

5. (currently amended) A retrieval device according to Claim 2, comprising a method in which at least one previously retrieved result is held in said retrieval reservation registering ~~portionunit~~, so that, when a user issues a retrieval request, said user selects on a basis of information freshness desired by the user to acquire a retrieval result from said held at least one previously retrieved result among a predetermined time interval or to execute new retrieval from original data.

6. (currently amended) A retrieval device according to Claim 3 wherein, when there are duplicates in retrieval requests among users and said retrieval requests are integrated to thereby acquire said retrieval results, said retrieval device ~~portion~~unit, makes on the basis of retrieval, copies of said retrieval results, integrates duplicates in said retrieval results by each of the users, and sends thus modified said retrieval results to said respective users issuing said requests for said retrieval results data.

7. (currently amended) A retrieval device according to Claim 1, wherein said retrieval device ~~portion~~unit acquires or sends retrieval results in accordance with said retrieval requests at predetermined intervals of time on the basis of predetermined information freshness.

8. (previously presented) A retrieval method in a system having computers and databases connected to one another, comprising:

registering retrieval requests issued by users;

combining duplicates requested in differing said retrieval requests in accordance with pre-stored rules to generate an integrated retrieval request to lessen a number of retrieval requests;

retrieving information from databases on the basis of contents of said integrated retrieval request integrating said registered retrieval requests to obtain retrieval results; and

creating, on the basis of said retrieval requests issued by users and said retrieval results, retrieval results data to be sent to said users, and sending said retrieval results data to said users when information is retrieved from said databases.

9. (previously presented) A retrieval method in a system having computers and databases connected to one another, comprising:

registering retrieval requests issued by users;

integrating said retrieval requests by eliminating duplicates in said retrieval requests;

retrieving said databases by using said integrated retrieval requests and acquiring retrieval results;

generating duplicates of retrieval results from said acquired retrieval results;

editing said duplicates of retrieval results on the basis of said retrieval requests; and

integrating said duplicates of retrieval results by eliminating duplicates from said retrieval results to be sent to each of said users on the basis of similarity between contents of said retrieval results.

10. (currently amended) A retrieval device in a system having computers and databases connected to one another, comprising:

a retrieval reservation registering ~~portion-unit~~ for, said retrieval reservation
registering unit registering retrieval requests issued by users;

a retrieval requests integrating ~~portion-unit~~for, said retrieval requests
integrating unit integrating said retrieval requests by eliminating duplicates in said
retrieval requests;

a retrieval ~~portion-unit~~for, said retrieval unit retrieving said databases by using
said integrated retrieval requests and acquiring retrieval results;

a duplicate generating ~~portion-unit~~for, said duplicate generating unit
generating duplicates of retrieval results from said acquired retrieval results;

a retrieval results editing ~~portion-unit~~for, said retrieval results editing unit
editing said duplicates of retrieval results on the basis of said retrieval requests; and

a retrieval results integrating ~~portion-unit~~for, said retrieval results integrating
unit integrating said duplicates of retrieval results by eliminating duplicates from said
retrieval results to be sent to each of said users on the basis of similarity between
contents of said retrieval results.

11. (previously presented) A retrieval method in a system having computers
and databases connected to one another, comprising:

registering retrieval requests issued by users;

combining said retrieval requests by eliminating duplicates existing in differing
said retrieval requests;

retrieving retrieval requests from said databases by using said integrated
retrieval requests;

generating duplicate retrieval results from retrieval results;

editing ones of said duplicate retrieval results on a basis of said retrieval requests; and

integrating said duplicate retrieval results by eliminating duplicates from said retrieval results to be sent to each of said users on a basis of similarity between contents of said retrieval results.

12. (currently amended) A retrieval device in a system having computers and databases connected to one another, comprising:

a retrieval reservation registering ~~portion-unit~~for, said retrieval reservation registering unit registering retrieval requests issued by users;

a retrieval requests integrating ~~portion-unit~~for, said retrieval requests integrating unit combining said retrieval requests by eliminating duplicates existing in differing said retrieval requests to produce integrated retrieval requests;

a retrieval device ~~portion-unit~~for, said retrieval device unit retrieving retrieval results from said databases by using said integrated retrieval requests;

a duplicate generating ~~portion-unit~~for, said duplicate generating unit generating duplicate retrieval results from retrieval results;

a retrieval results editing ~~portion-unit~~for, said retrieval results editing unit editing said duplicate retrieval results on a basis of said retrieval requests; and

a retrieval results integrating ~~portion-unit~~for, said retrieval results integrating unit integrating said duplicate retrieval results by eliminating duplicates from said retrieval results to be sent to each of said users on a basis of similarity between contents of said retrieval results.